Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05043 292122Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 OPIC-03 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 /074 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4029

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5043

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: VASCO GONCALVES OUT - AGAIN?

1. RELIABLE PORTUGUESE JOURNALIST WHO HAS JUST TALKED WITH A MEMBER OF THE NINE (WHICH AT 9:00 PM LOCAL IS MEETING WITH COSTA GOMES) TELLS US THAT VASCO GONCALVES IS DEFINITELY OUT, ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT HAPPEN UNTIL MONDAY. HE WILL NOT GET ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF POSITION EITHER. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO HAS DECLINED TASK OF PUTTING GOVERNMENT TOGETHER AND A SEARCH IS UNDERWAY FOR A NEW PM. THE NINE IS PUSHING CENTRAL MILITARY REGION COMMANDER CHARAIS. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LISBON 05043 292122Z

COMMENT: SITUATION IS SO FLUID EMBASSY HESITATES TO SEND IN

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM JOURNALISTS. WE DO SO IN THIS CASE BECAUSE THIS PARTICULAR JOURNALIST IS PROBABLY THE BEST INFORMED IN PORTUGAL. WE ALSO SENSE A GENERAL CHANGE IN THE ATMOSPHERE. THERE IS AGAIN A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE VASCO WILL GO. THE REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER THE NINE CAN FORCE THROUGH A CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOOSING OR WHETHER THEY WILL HAVE PRESENTED TO THEM SOMEONE LIKE PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO WHO IS SEEMINGLY NEUTRAL BUT WHO COULD BE MANIPULATED BY THE COMMUNISTS. IF IT IS THE LATTER THE NINE WILL BE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO ACCEPT THE "COMPROMISE" IN ORDER TO AVOID VIOLENCE AND POSSIBLY CIVIL WAR. TO DATE THEY ARE STANDING FIRM, BUT WE HAVE SEEN TOO MANY UNDESIREABLE LAST MINUTE COMPROMISES TO SAY IT CAN'T HAPPEN AGAIN. EVEN IF THEY GET THEIR OWN CANDIDATE THEY WILL STILL BE UNDER PRESSURE, FROM COSTA GOMES AMONG OTHERS, TO SEE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE WELL ENOUGH REPRESENTED SO THAT THEY WILL NOT CAUSE PROBLEMS. CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ADDRESSEE.

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Subject: VASCO GONCALVES OUT - AGAIN?
TAGS: PINT, PO, (GONCALVES, VASCO)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006